

Application No. 09/899,537
Amendment dated January 27, 2006
Reply to Office Action of October 31, 2005

Docket No.: 21994-00025-US

REMARKS

In view of the above amendment, applicant believes the pending application is in condition for allowance.

The Office Action and prior art relied upon have been carefully considered. Applicant notes the indicated allowability of claim 7 subject to being rewritten in independent form. The claim has been amended so that it incorporates the subject matter of independent claim 5 from which it depended so that claim 7 is now in condition for formal allowance.

Claims 1 and 2 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Parulski (US 5,440,343). Claim 3 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Parulski in view of Oda (US 5,528,291). Claim 4 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Parulski in view of Kawaoda (US 5,251,036). Finally, claims 5, 6 and 8 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Parulski in view of Hirasawa (US 6,473,120).

In an effort to expedite the prosecution of the present application, claims 1-6 and 8 have been canceled herewith. Thus, allowable claim 7 (incorporating the subject matter of independent claim 5) now stands as the sole claim in the application and is in condition for allowance.

Applicant submits herewith an IDS for the Examiner's consideration. Applicant believes that amended claim 7 remains allowable over the prior art listed in the IDS.

In view of the above, consideration and allowance are, therefore, respectfully solicited.

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In the event the Examiner believes an interview might serve to advance the prosecution of this application in any way, the undersigned attorney is available at the telephone number noted below.

The Director is hereby authorized to charge any fees, or credit any overpayment, associated with this communication, including any extension fees, to CBLH Deposit Account No. 22-0185, under Order No. 21994-00025-US from which the undersigned is authorized to draw.

Dated: January 27, 2006

Respectfully submitted,

By 

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